Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

FORM NO. 51-4AA
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 6 September 1952

SUBJECT Medical Information

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

Status and Training of Doctors[1]

1. At the end of World War II, the Communist authorities in Bulgaria, without in any way molesting the doctors already practicing, made great efforts to attract young men and women to the medical profession in order to develop the social services and to fill the gaps caused by the war years. The students accepted immediately after the war were not judged primarily by political criteria, but in recent years it has become almost impossible for children of "Fascist" families, i.e., pre-World War II middle class, to join any faculty of a Bulgarian university; however, there are indications that this official attitude is now being modified in the case of medical students in order to maintain professional standards.

2. In 1945-1946, approximately 3,000 students were accepted for the medical courses at Sofia University before the authorities realized that there were insufficient lecture rooms and only 150 microscopes available. A theater capable of seating 1,500 people was requisitioned as a lecture hall. Subsequently, however, the Communists realized that they had expanded too rapidly and at present the Sofia Medical Academy accepts only approximately 500 students at a time.

3. The Bulgarian medical course lasts six years and is largely theoretical. The last year is devoted to hospital work and students are allowed three post-mortems. As a result of this curriculum, plus the fact that they are sent directly to the country to practice instead of serving an internship under experienced practitioners in Sofia, young Bulgarian doctors often know less about medicine than do the peasant elders in the district in which they practice.

4. At present, the quality of the young doctors is not bad, but it is too soon to analyze how doctors trained in the post-war period compare with those trained

STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION									
ARMY	X	AIR	X	FBI											

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

before Western medical thought and progress were cut off. In general, however, Bulgarian medicine still lacks brains and equipment. Current medical textbooks are literal translations of Soviet works, and the Bulgarian pharmacopoeia is completely identical with the Soviet. Young doctors are unwilling to specialize because of the low salaries offered, i.e., 15,000-18,000 leva per month.

5. The doctors and specialists who trained prior to World War II, many of them in Vienna, Berlin, and Paris, are in general very capable, and the Communist regime is only too happy to retain their services. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to remain in private practice. There are only approximately 600 private practitioners left in Bulgaria, all of whom must obtain permission to practice. By such means as requisitioning consulting rooms, the Regime is gradually forcing the doctors into State hospitals or polyclinics. General practitioners are not allowed to run cars.

Hospital Conditions and Medical Administration

6. Major hospitals, which have all the main wards of a normal infirmary, exist in the chief town of each okrug (province), while each okoliya (district) has a secondary hospital with certain wards only. Below the secondary hospitals come the polyclinics, which are actually medical cooperatives and which all insured Bulgarian citizens can attend as outpatients free of charge. The polyclinics have a panel of doctors, some of whom are specialists, the number depending upon the population of the area served by the polyclinic. The polyclinic corresponds to the surgeries [redacted] operating together, and the doctor in the polyclinic decides at what stage a patient should be admitted to the hospital. In spite of lack of hospital space in Bulgaria, polyclinic doctors always make sure that emergency and serious (as opposed to chronic) cases are sent to the hospital.

50X1-HUM

7. Medical attention is free in State hospitals and polyclinics, provided that patients are insured. A visit to a patient at home even by State doctors costs 500 leva. In addition, all patients must pay for their prescriptions.

50X1-HUM

8. Conditions in hospitals are generally good, apart from the lack of modern equipment and drugs. [redacted]

Epidemics

9. Typhus does not exist in Bulgaria today except among gypsies [redacted] Typhoid is endemic because of the unsanitary water. There is no smallpox, but scarlet fever is prevalent because of overcrowding.

50X1-HUM

10. In the spring of 1952, an influenza epidemic, in itself not violent, spread through Bulgaria and caused very many deaths. This was the direct result of the negligence of the health authorities. Places of public entertainment were not closed, although the schools were. Complications arose because of undernourishment, overcrowding, etc. Moreover, in the countryside, the peasants take no sanitary precautions. In the towns, rumors spread that brandy cured the infection, and a run on the wine shops and the morgues ensued.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

The Drug Situation

11. Bulgaria is extremely short of drugs at the present time. The following drugs are unobtainable:

a. Sulphur drugs;

b. Streptomycin: The Soviets will not supply their Sintomitsin; and

c. Vitamin A: Normal Bulgarian food does not contain sufficient quantities, i.e., butter is of poor quality.

50X1-HUM

12. The penicillin situation is currently satisfactory. Soviet penicillin, [redacted] available.

13. A leading Bulgarian antibiotic authority, who has intimate knowledge of research in this field as well as access to all Soviet literature on the subject, has made the following observations on Soviet antibiotic progress:

a. Soviet penicillin is definitely good, but in his opinion it must be bottled badly because it degenerates quickly;

b. The Soviets have not yet admitted that they have aureomycin, and they usually publicize their medical research; and

c. From the published material, the Soviets appear to be approximately three years behind [redacted] in the antibiotic field.

50X1-HUM

14. As of September-November 1951, some prices of drugs, as fixed by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Security, were:

		Quantity	Wholesale	Retail
a.	Peletan pills in tubes	10 pieces	550 leva	785 leva
b.	Extractum lienis, pills 0.30	40 pieces	126 leva	180 leva
c.	Extractum thyroidea, 0.30	50 pieces	18 leva	26 leva
d.	Hydroscopic cotton wool	1 kilo	700 leva	1,000 leva
e.	Pure concentrated hydrochloric acid	?	148 leva;10 gr., 5 leva	
f.	Tubigal pills 0.025	1 pill		3 leva
g.	Tubigal pills 0.05	1 pill		6 leva
h.	Tubigal pulvis	1 gram		200 leva
i.	Dilaudid 0.002 with atropin 0.0003 in ampules of 1 cc.			16 leva
j.	Ambesid soluble pills	1 pill		1.5 leva
k.	Cardiazol ephedrine liquid, bottled	10-gram bottle		110 leva
l.	Diazil pills 0.50	1 pill		10 leva

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0

50X1-HUM

m.	Ephedrin sulphuricum pills	Box of 10 pills	18 leva
n.	Acidum hydrochlorum crudum	100 grams	18 leva
o.	Leucoplast	1 m. x 1 cm.	20 leva
p.	Medical rubber sheet, 80 cm. wide	1 meter	720 leva
q.	Stiptizin in 1 cc. ampules	1 ampule	12 leva
r.	Arsoferin pills	1 box of 100 pills	35 leva
s.	Bromural pills 0.30	20 pills	75 leva
t.	Quinine hydrobromicum 0.20	10 pills	60 leva
u.	Pancreatin pills 0.50	1 pill	4 leva
v.	Stiptizin pills 0.05	10 pills	41 leva
w.	Theobrominum natrium salicilicum pills	20 pills	90 leva
x.	Veromon pills 0.40	10 pills	45 leva
y.	Perborate	15 grams	20 leva

50X1-HUM

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R013700260006-0